

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1730

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2017

Weather Satellite

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Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched any satellites to specifically predict accurate weather forecast, rainfall, cyclones, depressions, etc. with a view to help common man, farmers and fishermen;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any plans to launch satellites, specially to provide all useful information for common people, agriculturists, fishermen and rural industries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a) & (b)

At present, India has five operational satellites in the orbit namely, Kalpana-1, INSAT-3D, INSAT-3DR, Megha-tropiques and Scatsat-1 providing data on various weather parameters viz. clouds, outgoing long-wave radiation, atmospheric motion vector, vertical profiles of temperature & humidity, sea surface temperature, ocean surface winds, radiation budget etc. The meteorological data obtained from INSAT-3D & 3DR every 15 minutes and humidity profile data of SAPHIR on-board Megha-tropiques is being operationally assimilated in the numerical weather models by India Meteorology Department (IMD) for improving weather forecast. The Ocean surface wind vector data from SCATSAT-1 are being also used operationally for prediction of cyclone track, its intensity & landfall with improved accuracy.

(c) & (d)

There are 13 satellites providing earth observation data and 5 satellites proving weather data. Utilizing these datasets, IMD provides satellite-enabled services to agriculturists in India, which include weather information, agro-advisory, agromet services to support farming operations in the country. The fishing sector is being supported through advisories on Potential Fishing Zones and the ocean state forecast generated by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS). Data continuity for these services will be ensured by launching replacement satellites as and when need arises.
